GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1375
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
REGIONAL DISPARITY
Hussain Shri Anwar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional imbalance of North Eastern States in comparison to other States has widened with the advent of market Reforms and globalization of economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the salient features highlighted by the Draft Approach Paper of Eleventh Five Year Plan on this issue;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has set up an expert group for examining the matter and recommending steps to check the growing regional disparity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b) : The annual growth rate of Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura for first three years of Tenth Plan reflect a higher growth rate than All India average. States of Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya had marginally lower growth rate. Growth rate of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur are below National Growth rate. The reasons for the low growth rate of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur are mainly due to their geographical locations and disturbances in case of Manipur.

(c) to (e) : The approach document for the 11th Plan has identified Regional divides as one of the major challenges. Balanced regional development has been one of the important objectives of National planning. The approach document has highlighted, as a general principle, that various policy initiatives, including fiscal incentives and targeted programmes have been evolved in the past to achieve this objective.

Planning Commission has set up an Expert group on equitable development for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. One of the Terms of References of the Expert group is to map out linkages of liberalization, globalization and transmission mechanisms that have an impact on the development profile of backward regions and to suggest strategies for meeting the challenges.